

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling an appliance comprising:
controlling the appliance with at least one of a plurality of mobile
computing devices; and
establishing priority of control over the appliance between the plurality
of mobile computing devices using a priority rule.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing priority comprises use of one
or more of the following rules:
 - (1) granting no priority when all mobile computing devices select the
same function and content of the appliance;
 - (2) granting priority to the first mobile computing device to establish
communication with the appliance;
 - (3) granting priority to the mobile computing device having the closest
location to the appliance;
 - (4) granting priority to the mobile computing device that pays the most
money for priority;
 - (5) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on their self-
selected priority;
 - (6) granting priority to the mobile computing devices in alternating
fashion;
 - (7) granting priority to the mobile computing devices using pay-for-
priority based on priority by volume units;
 - (8) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on rules
manually established by the mobile computing devices; and
 - (9) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on which
mobile computing device wins a game on the appliance played by all mobile
computing devices.
3. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

using the appliance to apply the priority rule against the mobile computing devices.

4. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:
using the mobile computing devices in mutual cooperation to apply the priority rule for determining award of control over the appliance between the mobile computing devices.
5. A method of controlling an appliance, the method comprising:
identifying a priority rule with the appliance to determine priority of control over the appliance between a first mobile computing device and a second mobile computing device;
establishing a wireless communication link between the appliance, a first mobile computing device and the second mobile computing device; and
applying the priority rule to grant priority of control between the first mobile computing device and the second mobile computing device.
6. An appliance control system comprising:
a mobile computing device including:
a controller;
a memory configured for storing content and user preferences;
a wireless communicator configured for wireless communication with an appliance;
a display with a user interface; and
a priority contention moderator configured for determining priority between a plurality of mobile computing devices competing for control of an appliance.
7. A mobile computing device including:
a controller;
a wireless communicator configured for wireless communication with an appliance;

a priority contention moderator configured for determining priority between a plurality of mobile computing devices competing for control of the appliance.

8. An appliance control system comprising:

at least one appliance;

a first mobile computing device;

a second mobile computing device; and

wherein each first and second mobile computing device and the appliance include a priority contention moderator configured for determining and awarding priority over control of the appliance to one of the first and second computing devices.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the priority contention moderator comprises:

a contention rule set having a plurality of rules for determining priority control over the appliance between the first and second computing devices.

10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of controlling an appliance, the method comprising:

controlling the appliance with at least one of a plurality of mobile computing devices; and

establishing priority of control over the appliance between the plurality of mobile computing devices using a priority criteria.

11. The medium of claim 10 wherein establishing priority of control further comprises the priority criteria comprising at least one or more of the following rules:

(1) granting no priority when all mobile computing devices select the same function and content of the appliance;

(2) granting priority to the first mobile computing device to establish communication with the appliance;

- (3) granting priority to the mobile computing device having the closest location to the appliance;
- (4) granting priority to the mobile computing device that pays the most money for priority;
- (5) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on their self-selected priority;
- (6) granting priority to the mobile computing devices in alternating fashion;
- (7) granting priority to the mobile computing devices using pay-for-priority based on priority by volume units;
- (8) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on rules manually established by the mobile computing devices; and
- (9) granting priority to the mobile computing devices based on which mobile computing device wins a game on the appliance played by all mobile computing devices.

12. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises:
using the appliance to apply the priority rule against the mobile computing devices.

13. The medium of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises:
using the mobile computing devices in mutual cooperation to apply the priority rule for determining award of control over the appliance between the mobile computing devices.

14. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of controlling an appliance, the method comprising:
identifying a priority rule with the appliance to determine priority of control over the appliance between a first mobile computing device and a second mobile computing device;
establishing a wireless communication link between the appliance, a first mobile computing device and the second mobile computing device; and

applying the priority rule to grant priority of control between the first
mobile computing device and the second mobile computing device.